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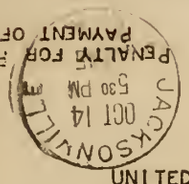

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
LIVESTOCK BRANCH
CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

ROOM 301
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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION, OCTOBER 1, 1945

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 11, 1945 - (USDA). DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION TO EARLY OCTOBER INDICATE THAT THE VOLUME OF CATTLE FEEDING DURING THE COMING WINTER FEEDING SEASON MAY BE LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE WINTER SEASON OF 1944-1945, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORTED TODAY. THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE VARIATION AMONG REGIONS, HOWEVER, IN THE CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR. PRESENT INDICATIONS POINT TO AN INCREASE IN THE EASTERN CORN BELT, TO A DECREASE IN THE GREAT PLAINS AREA FROM KANSAS TO TEXAS, AND TO LITTLE CHANGE IN THE FAR WESTERN STATES. THE TOTAL FOR THE WESTERN CORN BELT MAY BE LITTLE CHANGED, WITH INCREASES IN SOME STATES OFFSETTING PROBABLE DECREASES IN OTHERS.

THE IMPORTANT FACTORS THAT WILL DETERMINE THE ACTUAL VOLUME OF FEEDING ARE THE EXTENT OF FROST DAMAGE TO THE CORN CROP IN THE WESTERN CORN BELT, THE POLICIES FOLLOWED BY FARMERS TO SALVAGE THIS DAMAGED CORN, THE AVAILABLE SUPPLY OF FEEDER CATTLE DURING OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, AND THE TREND OF PRICES FOR SUCH CATTLE. ALTHOUGH THE PROPORTION OF THE CORN CROP THAT HAS SUFFERED OR MAY YET SUFFER MATERIAL DAMAGE FROM FROST AND FREEZING IS AS YET UNCERTAIN, THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT THAT THERE WILL BE A RELATIVELY LARGE ACREAGE OF SUCH CORN, ESPECIALLY IN ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA, IOWA, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND NEBRASKA. SINCE CATTLE CAN UTILIZE SUCH CORN TO BETTER ADVANTAGE THAN OTHER LIVESTOCK IT IS PROBABLE THAT CATTLE FEEDING OPERATIONS WILL BE MATERIALLY INCREASED IN THESE AREAS IF CATTLE CAN BE OBTAINED AT ACCEPTABLE PRICES.

MARKET RECORDS AND OTHER INFORMATION INDICATE THAT THE MOVEMENT OF GRASS CATTLE FROM THE NORTHERN PLAINS AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES DURING THE THREE MONTHS, JULY TO SEPTEMBER, HAS BEEN MUCH SMALLER THIS YEAR THAN LAST. A HEAVY MOVEMENT FROM THIS AREA DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR IS PROBABLE, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A LARGE PROPORTION OF STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE. HENCE IT WOULD SEEM THAT A LARGE SUPPLY OF FEEDER CATTLE MAY BECOME AVAILABLE FOR MOVEMENT TO FARMERS WHERE THE SUPPLY OF DAMAGED CORN IS EXPECTED TO BE LARGEST.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHEAT PASTURES IN THE SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION TO OCTOBER 1 WAS MUCH BEHIND A YEAR EARLIER, AND PROSPECTS WERE THAT SUCH PASTURES FOR WINTER GRAZING WOULD BE DECIDEDLY INFERIOR TO THE UNUSUALLY GOOD PASTURES OF A YEAR EARLIER. ALSO, THE PROSPECTIVE SUPPLY OF SORGHUM GRAIN AND BUNDLE FEEDS WAS MATERIALLY SHORT OF LAST YEAR'S RECORD PRODUCTION. CATTLE FEEDING IN THIS AREA WILL PROBABLY BE ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE THAN LAST YEAR.

REPORTS FROM THE WESTERN STATES INDICATE THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CATTLE FED WILL NOT BE GREATLY DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR. HAY SUPPLIES ARE LARGER THAN LAST YEAR IN MOST STATES AND PRICES ARE LOWER AND SUGAR BEET BY-PRODUCTS WILL BE CONSIDERABLY MORE ABUNDANT.

SHIPMENTS OF STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE INTO THE CORN BELT STATES DURING THE THREE MONTHS, JULY TO SEPTEMBER, THIS YEAR, WERE SMALLER THAN LAST, MOST OF THE DECREASE BEING IN THE SEPTEMBER MOVEMENT. THE TOTAL SHIPMENTS, BOTH FROM MARKETS AND DIRECTS, INTO EIGHT STATES, WERE 645,000 HEAD THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 708,000 IN 1944, A DECREASE OF 9 PER CENT. ALL OF THE EASTERN CORN BELT STATES SHOWED INCREASES, BUT THESE WERE OFFSET BY THE SHARPLY SMALLER TOTAL INTO IOWA AND NEBRASKA. MARKET SHIPMENTS INTO THE CORN BELT STATES NOT INCLUDED IN THE EIGHT STATES ALSO TOTALED LESS THAN LAST YEAR.

THE SMALLER SHIPMENTS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR ARE A RESULT, LARGELY, OF THE DELAYED MARKETING OF CATTLE FROM THE CATTLE PRODUCING AREAS. PRICES OF STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE DURING THE THREE MONTHS, JULY TO SEPTEMBER, WERE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR AND WERE THE HIGHEST FOR THIS PERIOD ON RECORD. THE TREND OF PRICES, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR. LAST YEAR PRICES OF STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE WERE AT THE LOW POINT IN JULY AND STRENGTHENED STEADILY. THIS YEAR THE HIGH POINT WAS IN JULY AND SUBSTANTIAL DECLINES HAVE TAKEN PLACE. EARLY IN OCTOBER PRICES WERE STILL OVER $1.00 A HUNDRED ABOVE A YEAR EARLIER.

RECORDS OF SHIPMENTS FROM FOUR MARKETS SHOW THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS, JULY TO SEPTEMBER, THE NUMBER OF STOCKER AND FEEDER STEERS WAS SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR FOR ALL WEIGHT CLASSIFICATIONS, WITH THE REDUCTION RELATIVELY THE SMALLEST FOR HEAVY FEEDERS (OVER 900 POUNDS). SHIPMENTS OF FEEDER CALVES AND OF COWS AND HEIFERS ON THE OTHER HAND WERE LARGER THAN LAST YEAR. WHILE PRICES OF FEEDER CALVES ARE MORE NEARLY NORMAL IN RELATION TO FEEDER STEER PRICES THAN THEY WERE LAST YEAR (WHEN THEY WERE LOW), MANY HEAVY CALVES OF BEEF BREEDS ARE GOING INTO SLAUGHTER CHANNELS AND PURCHASES OF FEEDER CALVES ARE SMALL IN RELATION TO MARKETINGS OF SUCH CALVES. THE SOFT CORN SITUATION CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A RELATIVELY STRONGER DEMAND FOR HEAVY WEIGHT FEEDER STEERS AND FEEDER COWS THAN FOR FEEDER YEARLINGS AND CALVES. ALSO, THE PROPORTION OF LOCALLY RAISED CATTLE FED WILL BE HIGH IN AREAS WHERE THE SUPPLY OF SOFT CORN IS RELATIVELY LARGE.

L. M. WYATT,

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE.

RELEASED BY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
OCTOBER 11, 1945.

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